

Executive Councilor Raymond S. Burton

Ray Burton is a native of New Hampshire and has lived his entire life in the north region of this state. He deeply understands the lifestyle and character of Northern New Hampshire residents. After attending Bath Village School for his early years of education, Ray attended Woodsville High School in the late 1950's. Upon graduation in the spring of 1958, he attended Plymouth State College (now Plymouth State University) where he earned his B.Ed. in 1962.

After a short tenure in the Andover and Warren New Hampshire School Districts as a teaching principal, Ray began to pursue a career in politics. He served as Sergeant at Arms for the New Hampshire House of Representatives and the State Senate from 1967-1968. During this time his interest in politics was transformed from a mere aspiration, to the beginning of a lifelong dedication to service through government. His first elected position came in 1977 when he was elected to the Executive Council for a two-year term. After a brief hiatus during 1980, he was re-elected to the Executive Council and has served each term since 1981.

Councilor Burton has become extremely involved in the Youth in Government Program, where high school juniors and seniors form their own mock legislature and executive branch in order to vote on simulated governmental issues. Councilor Burton's guidance and dedication to this program and his position as Co-Chair has lead to a successful and beneficial program for New Hampshire's youth. His initiation of a student intern program further exhibits his dedication to strengthening young adults' understanding of government. Since the program began in 1977, one hundred and fifteen New Hampshire college students have had the opportunity to gain practical experience in government. Councilor Burton felt so strongly that student interns should be present in his office that he began this program in his first year as an elected official.

Councilor Burton has been the recipient of numerous awards including the opening of a bridge in Woodsville, NH, named in his honor as the Raymond Burton Bridge on Route 135 in Bath. With his usual enthusiasm and wit, his representation of the North Country was summed up when he said, "We cannot let anybody in Concord forget that there's life north of Concord. We have to tell them to start looking out their north windows."

The Councilor is very actively involved with events and functions in his District. It is not unusual to see him driving one of his classic cars in a local parade, riding a snowmobile or attending events from agricultural fairs to town functions and award ceremonies.

The list of boards and committees of which Councilor Burton is a member are far too numerous to list, but include: Core Faculty Member at Springfield College, Chairman of the Bath Town Republican Committee, Chairman of the NH Operation Life Saver, Chairman of the North Country Council Transportation Committee, Clerk on the Grafton County Board of Commissioners, Member of the Burch House Advisory Committee, Member of the North Country Arts Advisory Council, Member of the NH Safety Council Advisory Council, Member of the New Hampshire Mathematics Coalitions, Member of the Pemi Fish and Game Club, Member of the Governor's Highway Advisory Council, Member of the Northern Community Investment Corporation, Member of the North Country Council, Member of the Ammonoosuc Fire Wardens, Member of the Grafton County Republican Committee, Member of the Grafton County Conservation District, Member of the Cottage Hospital Corporation, Member of the Mary A. Glidden Rebekah Lodge, member of the Grafton Lodge of F&M, Member of the United Church of Christ in Bath, Member of the Pine Grove Grange (7th degree), Member of the Consumer Advisory Committee Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Member of the NH Farm Bureau, Member of the McIntire School Advisory Board, Member of the Littleton Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Residential Care Advisory Board, Member of the Advisory board at Headrest, Honorary Trustee of the Eastern States Exposition.